IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of licensing and managing media resources in a tele-communications system including a converged services platform, said method comprising the steps of:

creating a central pool storing resource points representing a license or authorization level of media resource service capability; and

dynamically allocating portions of said central pool to one or more media resource cards~~.~~, as needed to perform specific services for a customer.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of: storing in said central pool default and/or additional licensed resource points represented by a converged services platform.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein said allocating step allocates portions of said central pool to a particular media resource card for a specific media resource service.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of: providing redundancy in the event a media resource card becomes unavailable by allocating additional portions of said central pool to remaining available cards.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of: designating a specified number of resource points required to perform each media resource service available.

1 6. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 5, further comprising the step of: de-

2 termining a number of resource points needed to perform an application by multiplying a

3 number of required media resource services by their corresponding number of required

4 resource points.

1 7. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 6, further comprising the step of: li-

2 censing additional resource points to a customer in the event that said resource points

3 needed to perform an application are greater than said default resource points available.

1 8. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 7, further comprising the step of: noti-

2 fying said customer that a license for additional resource points is needed in that event.

1 9. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein said media resource service

2 is selected from the group consisting of tone generation, tone detection, and re-

3 cording/playback of voice recorded announcements.

1 10. (Currently Amended) A converged services platform, comprising:

2   one or more media resource cards for performing media resource services;

3   a central pool storing resource points representing a license or authorization level

4 of media resource capability, said central pool for storing default and/or additional li-

5 censed resource points represented by said converged services platform; and

6   a processor for dynamically allocating portions of said central pool to one or more

7 media resource cards., as needed to perform specific services for a customer.

1   11. (Previously Presented) The converged services platform as in claim 10, wherein said

2   processor allocates portions of said central pool to a particular media resource card for a

3   specific media resource service.

1   12. (Previously Presented) The converged services platform as in claim 10, wherein said

2   processor provides redundancy in the event a media resource card becomes unavailable

3   by allocating additional portions of said central pool to remaining available cards.

1   13. (Previously Presented) The converged services platform as in claim 10, wherein

2   each media resource service has a specified number of resource points, which are re-

3   quired to perform said service.

1   14. (Previously Presented) The converged services platform as in claim 13, wherein a

2   number of resource points needed to perform an application is determined by multiplying

3   a number of required media resource services by their corresponding number of required

4   resource points.

1   15. (Previously Presented) The converged services platform as in claim 14, wherein said

2   additional licensed resource points are licensed to a customer in the event that said re-

3   source points needed to perform an application are greater than said default resource

4   points available.

1   16. (Previously Presented) The converged services platform as in claim 10, wherein said

2   media resource service is selected from the group consisting of tone generation, tone de-

3   tection, and recording/playback of voice recorded announcements.

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1 17. (Previously Presented) The converged services platform as in claim 10, further com-

2 prising: cache memories programmed to cache voice recorded announcements and/or

3 other announcements for playback.

1 18. (Previously Presented) The converged services platform as in claim 17, further com-

2 prising: an associated file server coupled with a network interface and said processor,

3 said file server storing said voice recorded announcements and other announcements.

1 19. (Currently Amended) A converged services platform, comprising:

2 means for creating a central pool storing resource points representing a license or

3 authorization level of media resource service capability; and

4 means for dynamically allocating portions of said central pool to one or more me-

5 dia resource cards~~.~~, as needed to perform specific services for a customer.

1 20. (Previously Presented) The converged services platform as in claim 19, further com-

2 prising: means for storing in said central pool default and/or additional licensed resource

3 points represented by a converged services platform

1 21. (Currently Amended) A method for managing available resources of a telecommu-

2 nications system having one or more media resource cards, the method comprising:

3 storing available resource points representing media resource service capability of

4 the telecommunications system; and

5 dynamically allocating available resource points to the media resource cards in

6 order to perform media resource services, as needed for a customer~~.~~.

1   22. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 21, further comprising:

2   preventing a media resource card from performing a media resource service in the

3   event there are no remaining available resource points.

1   23. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 21, further comprising:

2   storing additional resource points based on a customer need to utilize more media

3   resources than allowed by the available resource points.

1   24. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 21, further comprising:

2   storing a default number of available resource points based on available resources

3   of the one or more media resource cards.

1   25. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 24, further comprising:

2   in response to removal of one of the media resource cards, removing a corre-

3   sponding number of default available resource points.

1   26. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 21, further comprising:

2   assigning a number of resource points required to perform certain media resource

3   services.

1   27. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 26, further comprising:

2   allocating a corresponding number of resource points to the media resource cards

3   in order to perform a certain media resource service.

1   28. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 21, wherein the media resource ser-

2   vice capability is based on a license or authorization level of a customer.